

SAMPLE APPROVED PROTOCOLS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT OF HYPOGLYCEMIA WITH GLUCOSE MONITORING AND ADMINISTRATION OF GLUCAGON

PROVIDER NAME: _____

PROVIDER NO. 60 _____

This protocol may be used by properly trained and licensed EMTs for the treatment of patients who have been previously diagnosed with diabetes and are currently experiencing an altered mental status. EMTs-basic must obtain a direct voice order from the medical control physician **prior** to the administration of glucagon.

Blood glucose monitoring should be done anytime symptoms which present may be due to hypoglycemia. Caution must be used at all times, as EMTs will have the possibility of direct blood contact. Wear eye protection and gloves at all times when performing glucometry.

- I. Glucagon
 - A. Possible contraindications:
 1. Known hypersensitivity to the drug
 2. Pregnancy
 3. Adrenal gland tumor
 - B. Administer with caution to patients with a history of cardiovascular or renal disease
 - C. Side effects are rare but glucagon can cause hypotension, dizziness, headache, nausea, and vomiting
- II. Perform patient assessment
 - A. Perform initial assessment
 - B. Perform focused history and physical exam
 1. Facts surrounding the episode?
 2. Onset? Duration?
 3. Associated symptoms?
 4. Evidence of trauma?
 5. Interventions? Effects?
 6. Seizures? Fever?
 - C. Obtain baseline vital signs and SAMPLE history
 1. Including blood glucose level on any patient when any of the following are noted:
 - a. Unconscious
 - b. Altered level of consciousness
 - c. Apparent stroke
 - d. Seizure
 - e. Suspected diabetic emergency
 - f. As otherwise directed by medical control
 2. Assure known history of diabetes (medical identification tags, etc.)
 3. Determine last meal, last medication dose (including insulin type, time and how much), any related illness
 - D. Where hypoglycemia is found to exist (blood sugar less than 60), obtain order from medical direction for glucagon administration
 - E. Administer IM glucagon

1. Must be reconstituted before using
 2. Add the diluent to the powdered medication
 3. Gently shake to mix thoroughly
 4. Draw up 1 mg. of the medication and administer intramuscularly (subcutaneous administration will lengthen time to absorption)
- F. Record actions, transport and continue to monitor
- G. Perform ongoing assessment
1. If patient loses consciousness or seizes, protect airway
- H. Consider need for Advanced Life Support intervention

Approved by: _____ Medical Director (Print)

_____ Medical Director (Signature)

_____ Date